

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A swirl tube separator for separating solids from a gas-solid containing feed comprising
a tubular housing;
an axial inlet for introducing a gas-solids mixture at ~~one~~ a first end of said housing, wherein said axial inlet for introducing the gas-solids mixture is provided with swirl imparting means;
a solids outlet opening at ~~the opposite~~ a second end of said housing; and
a co-axial positioned tubular gas outlet conduit placed at ~~an~~ the first end of said housing such that the ~~solids outlet opening~~ axial inlet for introducing a gas-solids mixture is positioned in the space between the tubular gas outlet conduit and the wall of the tubular housing,
wherein along the axis of the tubular housing a vortex extender pin is present; further wherein the solids outlet opening comprises an annular opening about the vortex extender pin.
2. (Currently Amended) The swirl tube separator according to claim 1, wherein the pin is present along at least 20% of the axis of the tubular housing, said axis running from the first end to the second end ~~inlet opening of the gas outlet conduit up to the end of the tubular housing opposite said gas outlet conduit.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The swirl tube separator according to claim 2, wherein the pin is from 30% to 100% present along ~~at between 30 and 100%~~ of the axis of the tubular housing.
4. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 3, wherein the pin is present along 100% of the axis of the tubular housing.

5. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 4, wherein the pin extends from the interior of the gas outlet conduit into the tubular housing and wherein the pin is fixed within the gas outlet conduit by means of supporting means, said supporting means are swirl means which swirl means are positioned such that they decrease the swirling motion of the gas being discharged via the gas outlet conduit.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) Multi separator provided with a plurality parallel operating swirl tube separators according to claim 1.

8. (Original) A process to separate solids from a solids laden gaseous mixture having a solids content of between 100 and 500 mg/Nm³ to obtain a gaseous stream containing less than 50 mg solids per Nm³ in a swirl tube according to claim 1.

9. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 1, wherein the pin extends from the interior of the gas outlet conduit into the tubular housing and wherein the pin is fixed within the gas outlet conduit by means of supporting means, said supporting means are swirl means which swirl means are positioned such that they decrease the swirling motion of the gas being discharged via the gas outlet conduit.

10. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 2, wherein the pin extends from the interior of the gas outlet conduit into the tubular housing and wherein the pin is fixed within the gas outlet conduit by means of supporting means, said supporting means are swirl means which swirl means are positioned such that they decrease the swirling motion of the gas being discharged via the gas outlet conduit.

11. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 3, wherein the pin extends from the interior of the gas outlet conduit into the tubular housing and wherein the pin is fixed within the gas outlet conduit by means of supporting means, said supporting means are swirl means which swirl means are positioned such that they decrease the

swirling motion of the gas being discharged via the gas outlet conduit.

12. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 1, wherein the inlet for introducing the gas solids mixture and the gas outlet conduit are arranged at one end of the tubular housing and the solids outlet opening is positioned at the opposite end of said housing.

13. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 2, wherein the inlet for introducing the gas solids mixture and the gas outlet conduit are arranged at one end of the tubular housing and the solids outlet opening is positioned at the opposite end of said housing.

14. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 3, wherein the inlet for introducing the gas solids mixture and the gas outlet conduit are arranged at one end of the tubular housing and the solids outlet opening is positioned at the opposite end of said housing.

15. (Original) The swirl tube separator according to claim 4, wherein the inlet for introducing the gas solids mixture and the gas outlet conduit are arranged at one end of the tubular housing and the solids outlet opening is positioned at the opposite end of said housing.